

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
 Societies.

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unhindered; and these facts seem to indicate that no difference exists between the sexes which would render the participation of women in political life disastrous.

Finally, we deny altogether that a refusal to recognise a referendum as the proper means of dealing with a political question proves anything at all. The tribunal established in this country for the decision of political questions is Parliament; the present Government of the country has been firm in its objection to the referendum in regard to subjects which it deems important; and we Suffragists object no less to the introduction, in regard to a subject which we deem important, of a procedure unknown to the English Constitution. There are, moreover, many other grounds for disapproving of a referendum, several of which will be found set forth in our leading article of February 28th last.

Notes and Comments.

"The Assumed Demand."

A letter appears in the *Times* of March 31st, headed: "The Assumed Demand for Woman Suffrage," and signed by ten ladies, who say that they protest against "the assumption, common in suffragist writings and speeches," that the demand for enfranchisement is "the demand of women generally, that the women who do not make the demand abstain owing to ignorance or indifference, and that opposition comes more from men than from women." They assert their conviction that the reservation to men of political functions and responsibilities is based upon a difference of character and aptitude between the sexes which is natural and ineradicable. They believe these views to be those of the majority of women, and think that a wrong will be done to their sex if Women Suffrage is "imposed upon us" before substantial evidence to the contrary is forthcoming. Finally, they would welcome "a direct appeal to all women" if means for carrying it out under official authority can be devised, and urge that if Suffragists "refuse this test of the strength of their cause they prove the failure of their own professions."

Sundry Errors.

We have not observed, at the many Suffrage meetings which we have attended, any habit of asserting that the majority of women desire to be enfranchised; nobody knows what the majority of women wishes; and members of the National Union of Suffrage Societies, at least, are generally cautious of making rash statements. What is asserted, and what is true, is that in all European countries great numbers of women desire the enfranchisement of their sex, and that these numbers increase rapidly and largely. We suggest that the ladies who sign the letter know no more than we do whether their views are those of the majority, even of their own countrywomen. Nor do they know—no human being knows—what differences of character and aptitude between men and women are natural and ineradicable, nor whether any such natural and ineradicable differences exist at all. We do know, however, that women who have come, by the chance of birth, to thrones have shown a high percentage of political competence; we know that in Norway, in the enfranchised American States, and in certain of our own Colonies where women vote on equal terms with men, no deterioration of political life arises, that family life remains undisturbed, and the general progress of the community

"Neither Fit nor Able."

A correspondent, whose letter appears on another page, reproaches us with "giving away" the Women's Suffrage cause in a note that appeared on March 14th in *THE COMMON CAUSE*. In the course of it, the position of the poorer women entitled to vote at municipal elections was described, and the many causes which impede their voting were touched upon. After recognising the heroism of their lives, the writer added: "But they are not, and cannot be, until their burdens are lightened for them by some communal efforts, either fit or able to take part in the government of the great city in which they lead lives often harder than any which a slave owner would dare to impose." If this is the case, the Government cannot, our correspondent thinks, be blamed for refusing to give "these women" the Parliamentary vote; and she urges that the statement should be repudiated. We cannot repudiate the statement; we know it to be true; but we do not agree that to acknowledge it is to give away the case for Women's Suffrage. The fact that in this richest city of the world, industrious mothers, if they happen to be widows, or deserted, or unhappily married, or the wives of invalids, are driven to toil all day and half the night for a pittance upon which it is impossible to keep their children decently fed and clothed, is one of the strongest reasons why women should desire a voice in the making of the country's laws. To see such lives as theirs—even, perhaps, to read of them—brings home to other women the duty of fighting their battle. Men have not understood their need, and have not so shaped the laws as to secure to these generally most deserving citizens any chance of knowledge, comfort, or power of self-help. That they have no time to understand or practise their civic duties is one of their wrongs—one of the reasons why they need the help of their fellow women. If England were perfectly governed, if every woman had the chance of earning an adequate income and securing adequate leisure, if no woman were ignorant or over-driven, or unfit to exercise such lesser rights as she has, the demand for women's enfranchisement would be but a very abstract, uninspiring kind of demand. The best Suffragists are those who desire power in order to render service, and to such Suffragists the remembrance of their sisters "neither fit nor able" is always a fresh call.

Pure Milk.

Mr. Burns's long-promised Milk and Dairies Bill, read for the first time on March 28th, provides for the registration and inspection (by the local medical officer of health and a veterinary

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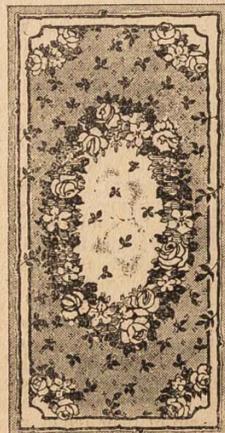
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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE LATEST TIME for receiving news, notice and reports for the week's issue is the FIRST POST ON TUESDAY. News should be sent in as long beforehand as possible.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

ADVERTISEMENTS (Societies, Miscellaneous, etc.) must reach the Office (2, Robert Street) not later than first post on Tuesday.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, communication should be made to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

The Nation's Children.

The subject of education has come into unusual prominence during the last month or two; and there is every probability that the time of Parliament will, in the near future, be largely occupied by a topic in which women are, perhaps, even more generally interested than men. The fact must, for many thoughtful women, add an additional pang to the remembrance that women have no direct part in the choice of those representatives in whose hands rest the degree and the nature of the education to be given to this country's children.

That the education provided at present in the English public elementary schools is not satisfactory, it is easy enough to agree. Both teachers and teaching are—with outstanding exceptions, however—too mechanical. Long hours of work and large classes are in themselves great evils; but perhaps their worst feature is that they eclipse others far more vital. While the teacher is fatigued, while the size of the class renders attention to the individual impossible, the observer may easily see in these things a sufficient explanation of failure, whereas there may, perhaps, be a central weakness behind them which would involve failure, even if these exterior defects were removed.

It is well sometimes to return to fundamentals, and at the present moment English people may wisely pause and ask themselves what is the aim of education. Mr. Holmes, in his interesting report upon the Montessori System, provides one definition when he says of Dottressa Montessori that "she believes that the function of education is to help growth." A very different idea this from the old-time notion that education meant the forcing of definite information into reluctant brains. "To help growth."—Yes; nearly every progressive teacher in these days will agree; but surely also to guide growth. Dr. Montessori, herself, really guides the children in her schools, if it were only by the choice of the apparatus that they find prepared for them. And if once we admit the principle of guidance, we must ask whither and how. Clearly, schools should teach children those things which life does not teach them, but which, in present conditions, it demands from the adult. Life will not teach a child to read, to write, to count, or to draw; but the man or woman who has not learned to do all these things is at a disadvantage. Such, therefore, are the subjects which children and their parents have a right to require from the teachers set in authority by the State. Unfortunately, there is a group of educationalists who fail to realise that, of all these, reading is the most important, because as soon as we can read fluently we become able to explore for ourselves in the worlds of knowledge and of literature. The earlier in life this mental tool is acquired, the more time and opportunity has the child for absorbing the accumulated treasures to which we are born heirs; and the modern opposition to early learning to read is really an opposition to the habit of reading; it is actually a cult of illiteracy. One of the many signs that Dr. Montessori is right in her methods is the fact that by its use

inspector or surgeon) of dairies and dairymen; gives to the Local Government Board the power of making special or general orders as to lighting, drainage, air-space, etc.; cleanliness of vessels and methods of cooling milk; the use of colouring matter and the addition of skimmed or separated milk, water, or any other substance to milk intended for human consumption; the conveyance of milk, and identification of churns and vessels used in such conveyances; and the labelling or marking of receptacles for milk meant to be sold for human consumption. It also gives permission for the establishment by the sanitary authority of a district, containing not less than fifty thousand inhabitants, of depôts for the sale of milk specially prepared for the consumption of infants under two years of age.

No Bill likely to be introduced by this Government is of so much importance to the country as this, which has been so unduly delayed. The high infant mortality prevailing—to our national disgrace—in poor districts is largely due to the impossibility of securing even approximately pure milk. It is the habit of many people to lay the blame of these many deaths upon mothers; but the best of mothers, if she happens to be poor and to live in a poor neighbourhood, can no more get pure milk for her child than pure gold. To pass this Bill—which would have been passed long ago if women had been among the electors whom members desire to placate—will be to do the State real service. Women should be on the watch to note the names in the division list.

The "Woman's Court."

The Manchester Guardian recently published a brief account of the working of the Woman's Court in Chicago, where Judge Pinckney appointed Miss Mary M. Bartelme to act, being convinced that there were many cases in which a woman would prove a better arbitrator than a man. All the officers of her Court are women, and the offenders—all women—who are brought before it are reported to tell their stories with much less reluctance than in a Court of men. After a fortnight's experience, both Judge Pinckney and Miss Bartelme are satisfied with the results. Probably other Courts will be established in America. In this country we are not likely to proceed so quickly; but we can at least join in demanding insistently that women shall not be tried or compelled to give evidence in a Court from which all other women are excluded.

The Need for Women Guardians.

In view of the forthcoming election of Poor Law Guardians on April 7th, the Women's Local Government Society are issuing the following Appeal to Women:—

There are in all about 25,000 Guardians of the Poor in England and Wales, of whom only 1,323 are women—that is, 1 woman to 19 men. There are 235 Unions without women Guardians.

Women electors cannot fail to see that Women Guardians are needed, especially for—

The Workhouse. (Clothing of women, children and infants, Food, and its preparation, Methods of Bathing, etc.)

Children Boarded-out.

Starting Girls in life, and keeping in touch with them afterwards.

The Aged Inmates.

The Lying-in Wards.

The Sick in the Infirmarys.

The women and girls sent by the Guardians to Lunatic Asylums.

Out-door Relief. (In visiting widows, women Guardians can render special service.)

Infants put out to nurse. (Not in London.)

Women Officials employed by the Board as Matrons, Nurses, Relieving Officers, etc.

Women Electors can influence the whole quality of a Board's work by helping to return suitable women and also suitable men.

We hope that every reader of THE COMMON CAUSE who has a vote will use it on this occasion.

Where Sex is no Bar.

At a London college for working men and women, where the proportions of the sexes are two-thirds men to one-third women, a recent election of the students' advisory committee showed the following result. For six vacancies there were 12 nominations, seven men and five women. All five women were elected and one man. The vote was by ballot. The result was probably largely due to the greater activity of the women students in working for the various clubs and other social arrangements in the college.

Change of Editor.

This is the last number of THE COMMON CAUSE produced under the editorship of Miss Clementina Black. Miss A. Maude Wyden assumes office from to-day.

"she has fully proved that reading and writing can be taught to quite young children—to 'babies,' in fact—without overtaxing their brains, and without their realising that they are doing anything but playing at interesting games."

Reading, then, writing, drawing, and counting, children should learn at school; and if they can be encouraged to acquire these powers for themselves, as the children in the Montessori schools do, so much the better. But of all matters connected with learning to read, the most vital is that the children should come to love books. No gift so precious can be bestowed upon persons whose lives are likely to be narrow and monotonous, nor is there any taste that can be more inexpensively and harmlessly gratified. Yet how sadly small is the proportion of children in the public elementary schools of this country who have learned to love reading! Worse still, the proportion is not high, even among the teachers in these schools, many of whom, even if they do love reading, have but little leisure to go beyond such as is needed for their work. The comparatively short holidays of elementary teachers put them at a disadvantage in regard to self-culture as compared with their fellow workers in secondary education. With labour of the mind no less than with labour of the body, the employer who drives a hard bargain is apt to lose upon the transaction; and the State has been no generous paymaster to the educators of its children—especially to those of them who are women. One thing is certain, that if the teachers are starved—if they are anxious about making both ends meet, if they have to cut themselves off from any relaxation that costs more than the twopence of the Cinema, if they are uneasy about the longevity of their boots, and compelled to circumscribe severely the dimensions of their mid-day meal, they will not be people capable of breathing inspiration into the children around them. This fact, we hope, was one among those that were in Lord Haldane's mind when he said, the other day, that the question of education was really a question of money.

Since making his speech to the National Union of Teachers, Lord Haldane last Saturday attended a joint meeting of secondary and technical teachers, to whom he began by saying that he was one of a band who were on a voyage of discovery, and who wanted to know all they could before they committed themselves to details. He revealed the central difficulty when he said that the British public must be interested, although the employment of the word "British" was a touch of fine courtesy from a Scotchman, whose own countrymen need no missionary to instruct them in the value of the best possible education. The contrast between the English attitude and the Scotch is ably drawn in an article headed, "The Causeway and the Ladder." In that land there is "a society which honours knowledge even more than success." In little village schools there is "scope for the genuine teacher's ambition," which is to transmit to their pupils that love of letters and passion for learning which they have themselves imbibed. In Scotland there is little need of any new process for linking up elementary school, secondary school, and university. But in England there is great need for the co-ordination which Lord Haldane urged. He hopes that improvement in the elementary school may both bridge the gap between it and the secondary school, and relieve the latter of some of its present burdens; while a similar improvement in the secondary school would in like manner lighten some of the burdens borne by the university. At present only about one in twenty-three of the 600,000 pupils who leave the elementary schools yearly goes on to some form of higher education, while the twenty-two receive nothing beyond the training of the primary school. In Germany, Lord Haldane reminded his hearers, a boy remains for nine years in a secondary school, and on leaving is qualified to enter a university without preliminary examination. Examinations, indeed, ought to be largely superseded by the full school record of the individual. In this country our educational backwardness in comparison with the level attained by several of its competitors forms a national peril. While deprecating any desire to base the case for education, and especially for higher education, on merely material grounds, he maintained that national progress, even in the making of money, could not be dissociated from the basis of knowledge, and that expenditure upon education was productive expenditure which the country was justified in making a sacrifice to incur.

We are glad to note that Lord Haldane, although in quoting the German system he mentioned only boys, spoke of the need for higher education of "the average boy or girl," as, indeed, we should expect from a man who has always been a supporter of Women's Suffrage. It is essential that girls should not be forgotten in the new Education Bill—essential not only for themselves, but for the whole community, since so much of the teaching of young children—perhaps the most important part of all education—is in the hands of women.

Pence and Progress.

It is easy and interesting to trace the lineal descent of our great Union back through the historic National Committee, and the first small and isolated Suffrage Societies of Bristol, of Manchester, and of London, that sprang up here and there under the inspiration of a master-mind or, stirred by the example of a life that shone as with the radiance of a new nobility. We trace the gradual spreading of this movement—at first by slow stages from individual brain to brain—from single soul to soul—strength and inspiration passing truly like a torch from hand to hand, until to-day the very air seems filled with the current of it, as group flashes unto group, city unto city, world unto world.

And so it is perfectly true that almost two generations have passed away since the first pioneers of Women's Enfranchisement ploughed their deep but lonely furrows and, labouring for unselfish love and loving unselfish labour, sowed that seed from which, in the fulness of time, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies with all its ramifications was to blossom.

It seems, indeed, a law of Nature that seed of things which shall endure shall be slow to germinate and shall slowly come to fruition, and so the time had to be long to allow for the growth and the building up of this new element in the affairs of men, embodying a change so vital in thought, in feeling, in knowledge and understanding, and necessitating a readjustment of the world's standards and views of life, and its adoption of a new ideal and a new purpose in all human activities. And now at last the harvest has ripened—ripened, too, with a rapidity and with an abundance beyond belief, in comparison with the long years of previous development and preparation. And now also, because the harvest-time has come, we need workers—more workers than we have ever needed before, to help us gather in this great heritage, for which so many who have gone from among us have given their lives and their labour.

If ever future historians should seek for material from which to re-create the rapid growth of the Women's Suffrage movement, doubtless they will seek it in the annals of our great Suffrage Societies, and nowhere will they find it set forth more clearly than among the financial records of the last nine years, so seemingly prosaic and yet so full of meaning.

It is often assumed, not only by the general public, but even by many of our own members, that the body known as the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has not only been in existence, but working on its present basis, for a great number of years. Though the organisation of old societies was formed into the "National Union" in 1897, it was not until 1907 that it adopted its present elaborate and representative constitution.

Prior to 1904 the National Union was merely a Consultative Committee of representatives of the seventeen societies then in existence; it met solely to deal with Parliamentary business, and in order to secure united support for Bills and resolutions to be brought before the House of Commons. The Union had no separate funds or subscribers, the expenses incurred by the work in Parliament being shared between the individual societies, and no balance-sheet being therefore published.

How strangely small and feeble this organisation sounds to us now! and yet it was really a sign of life and advance in its own day. The call for a joint committee was the result of the growing life and activity of the societies, many of whom till then had been content to leave the Parliamentary work to the society on the spot in London. An undertaking to send up a member once a month (even though it was often a different person each time!) was a considerable task for the slender resources of some of the societies who first shared in the national work, but the effort then made was to bear rich fruit.

In October, 1903, a National Convention was held in London, at which over £1,500 was collected (how vast a sum it seemed to us then, and what amazing results followed!). This was the first occasion on which subscriptions were given direct to the Union as such. From that moment the funds and the activity of the Union increased in direct proportion, until in January, 1907, the present constitution was adopted. At that period the number of societies had increased from seventeen to thirty-one.

In the next year the funds doubled and the societies more than doubled, having grown to seventy; since then the progress has been steady until last year with its £14,000 and its 400 societies. From the moment when the Union had a Headquarter's Fund for national purposes [1903] its activities may be followed in annual reports and balance-sheets. The following statements of income, culled from these reports, should be of special interest at the present time, as showing how closely the great increase in the Central Funds of our Union corresponds with the vast

development and the recent rapid progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement:—

	Year.	£	s.	d.
* Campaign Fund	1904	1,534	12	0
" " " " " " " " " "	1905	891	1	11
N.U.W.S.S. " Cash Statement	1906	1,504	9	6
" " " " " " " " " "	1907	1,470	3	10
" " " " " " " " " "	1908	2,938	0	11
" " " " " " " " " "	1909	3,385	13	9
" " " " " " " " " "	1910	5,503	7	1
" " " " " " " " " "	1911	5,734	14	2
Including the Election Fighting Fund ...	1912	14,760	2	4

Those readers who have wondered whether the mere routine of organisation was worth spending money upon will perhaps be struck anew with the romance of figures, of how increased effort follows all money invested in a good cause, and how this again brings more funds. The great Union, with its vast and ever-increasing rapidity of growth, has a long and noble history behind it, but the last and most amazing chapter of that history may be said to begin in 1903 with £1,500!

H. A.

* NOTE.—These statements, of course, only relate to money handled at Headquarters, and do not represent a tithe of the whole income of the Societies forming the Union, amounting last year to over £40,000.

Campaign at Weston-super-Mare.

We have received the following communication from Miss Ethel Ballantyne, who, together with Miss House and Miss Harvey, has been carrying out a successful suffrage campaign in Weston-super-Mare during the period of the Conference of the National Union of Teachers:—

On our arrival on March 17th we at once started to open a Suffrage shop, to the interest and amusement of the Westonians, and ever since we have had one continuous stream of visitors. They did not come from idle curiosity, but wished to be enlightened on the principles held by the National Union. We never missed an opportunity at the various meetings held by the Conference of the National Union of Teachers to bring Suffrage prominently to their notice. A few days after our arrival, the National League for opposing Women's Suffrage opened a shop in Weston-super-Mare, which has been a great help to our propaganda.

On March 25th a most successful public meeting was held at the Albert Hall. Long before the appointed time the Hall was crowded, and, although an overflow meeting was held in a smaller room, hundreds were turned away.

Professor Skemp, Ph.D., of the University of Bristol, presided and spoke of the wider aspects of the movement.

Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., spoke of the vote with special reference to the teaching profession. Miss Chrystal MacMillan claimed that women had a right to grow politically, and that the Government was bound to fulfil its pledges in the only possible way—by a Government measure.

The following resolution was carried by a large majority, and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister and many Members of Parliament:—"That this meeting calls upon the Government to redeem its pledges in the only way now open by introducing a Government measure for women."

Mr. Shirley Tompkinson proposed the vote of thanks. Our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Dice, of Lewisham, who presided at the overflow meeting and made such a telling and excellent address.

The result of our canvassing has been to gain a larger membership for the Weston-super-Mare Society, and we have also enrolled 120 Friends of Women's Suffrage, the majority of whom will probably join the Weston Society. Most valuable help, for which we are much indebted, has been received from Mrs. Thorpe, Miss Dolby, Miss Laughler, Mrs. Youngman, Mrs. Gale-Scott, Miss Tanner (Bristol), and Mrs. Roger Clark (Street).

The Masque of Learning.

At the invitation of the International Congress of Historical Studies, Professor Geddes' Masque of Learning (which was described in THE COMMON CAUSE of March 21st) will be repeated at the University of London on the evening of Saturday, April 5th. The opportunity has therefore been taken to give a few more representations of this pageant, which will take place on Saturday afternoon, April 5th, Friday, April 11th (8.15 p.m.), and Saturday, April 12th (matinée and evening). Application for tickets should be made to Messrs. Chappell and Co., 50, New Bond Street, W., or to the Masque Secretary, Crosby Hall, Chelsea, S.W.

The Case of Miss Lenton.

In a letter printed in another column Mr. D. B. McLaren expresses an opinion that THE COMMON CAUSE has treated Mr. McKenna with some lack of justice in regard to the case of Miss Lilian Lenton, and we admit that it would have been more becoming to have devoted a note in our last issue to the explanation which Mr. McKenna gave at length to the House of Commons on March 18th. It was asserted by Sir Victor Horsley, Dr. Charles Mansell Moullin, and Dr. Agnes Savill in a letter to the *Times*, published on the morning of that day, that the pleuro-pneumonia from which Miss Lenton suffered was due to the passing of food into her lungs during forcible feeding. These three medical practitioners declare that the feeding was attended with choking and rattling breathing, and was followed immediately by great and increasing pain; that three wardresses remained in charge of her; that the doctor was fetched, who treated her in various ways—which are enumerated—as a person seriously ill; and that on her release she was taken, in charge of the doctor and a wardress, to the house of a friend. Her recovery is attributed by the signatories of the letter to her youth and good, healthy physique.

These are the statements made on Miss Lenton's side, and as she is the only person able to say what happened to her in prison, it must be presumed that the assertions upon that subject come from her.

On the other side stands the statement of the prison doctor who administered the forcible feeding, and who says that Miss Lenton refused, when received into prison on remand, to be medically examined, or to give any information about her previous health. After she had fasted for two days she was forcibly fed, and was previously examined by two doctors, though "under great difficulties, as she resisted violently." He denies that there was any cough, stridor or difficulty in breathing; that Miss Lenton rested for a little while after the feeding, and "appeared quite comfortable"; and that the symptoms of pleurisy did not set in until three hours after the feeding. She then allowed him to make an examination, and he "ascertained" that she had been subject to attacks of pain and shortness of breath for a twelvemonth, but had not "apparently" had medical advice. He concluded that she had pleurisy "which may have been present before." As she would not take food, and as it was "quite impossible to artificially feed her again," he considered that "her life would be endangered," and reported the facts to the Home Office. He declares that there was "nothing to suggest that her condition was due to food entering the lungs," and understands that this is borne out by "her own medical attendant under whose care she has been since."

It will be seen that there is a grave discrepancy between the two stories. There is also some discrepancy between the prison doctor's statement after the event, that he considered Miss Lenton's life "would be endangered," and the Home Secretary's words—disfigured in "Hansard" by an obvious misprint—in the House. Those words are thus reported: "In a case in which the Home Secretary knows on the best information he can get that a prisoner who has not even been tried to die, and when he is informed that minutes are urgent, has he not the power to release her?"

It is clear that there is serious mis-statement on one side or the other, and equally clear that no outside person can declare on which side the truth lies. Mr. McKenna believes the statement of his own subordinate, and he may be right. But justice both to that subordinate and to the young woman, whose story differs so widely from his, demands some public investigation before an impartial tribunal. Not only Miss Lenton and Dr. Forward, but the community at large is concerned, on the one hand with the treatment of prisoners, on the other with the clearing of its servants from a serious accusation.

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An Organisers' Association.

Owing to the isolation in which much of the work of the National Union is necessarily done, the organisers of the Union have for a long time past felt the want of mutual intercourse and discussion of their work. Last year an attempt was made to meet this need by arranging a meeting of the organisers and organising secretaries employed by the Union at the time of the Annual Meeting. This was largely attended, and a resolution was carried unanimously demanding a similar meeting the following year. This took place on March 1st at the New Century Club, Hay Hill, and was attended by 46 organisers. In the circular letter summoning the meeting all had been asked to suggest points for discussion, and these were embodied in a lengthy agenda. The greater part of the time, however, was devoted to consideration of the best method of uniting in a corporate body the organisers and organising secretaries of the Union, and of forming a link between them and headquarters.

After an animated discussion it was decided to form an association with officers and a committee, and to meet regularly twice a year. Miss Margaret Robertson (E.F.F.) was appointed Chairman, Miss C. M. Gordon (N.U.) Secretary, and Miss Dorothy Darlington (Manchester Federation) Treasurer, and out of thirteen nominations Miss Helga Gill (Oxford Society), Miss Lisa Gordon (Edinburgh Society), and Mrs. Annot Robinson (E.F.F.) were chosen as ordinary members of committee. At the conclusion of the meeting those present crowded round the newly-elected officers to give in their names as members of the Union; and those responsible for organising this first meeting have been much gratified by hearing from organisers who were unable to be present of their great satisfaction at the formation of the Union, which will satisfy a much-felt want. The next meeting will be held in July, when we hope to discuss much important business, which was unavoidably left over. Several members have already handed in motions, and in May all will be circularised and asked to send resolutions. Meanwhile we hope that those who have not yet joined the Union will do so at once, so that no one may be omitted when the time comes to ask for resolutions for inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting.

The annual subscription is 5s., and membership is open to all organisers and organising secretaries attached to the National Union, whether employed directly by Headquarters, by Federations, or by Societies, and whether belonging to the General Staff or to the Fighting Fund. Names and permanent addresses should be sent to the Secretary, Miss C. M. Gordon, 3, Osborne Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and subscriptions to Miss Dorothy Darlington, Grosvenor Chambers, 16, Deansgate, Manchester.

C. M. GORDON.

The International Congress at Buda-Pesth.

Arrangements are being made by the National Union for delegates and other visitors to the Congress at Buda-Pesth to travel out together.

It is interesting to hear from the Austrian Society that an International Woman Suffrage Conference will be held in Vienna on June 11th and 12th. As this is the first time that such a Conference will take place there, all those who are going to the Buda-Pesth Congress are warmly invited by the Viennese Women's Suffrage Committee to attend it on their way to Buda-Pesth. A large attendance at this Congress would be of great value to the Suffrage movement in Austria, besides being of interest to the visitors. The Viennese Committee are looking forward to receiving a large number of visitors, and are making every arrangement for their entertainment.

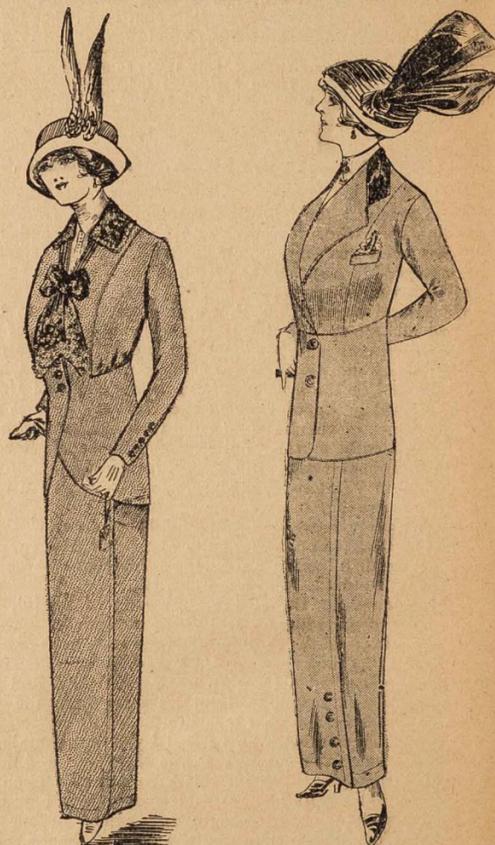
The friendly attitude of the Austrian and Hungarian State railways, which are reducing their fares considerably, have enabled Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons to offer especially low terms. The journey will be broken by one night's stop at Dresden, with the opportunity of seeing some of its sights, and two nights at Vienna. The inclusive cost of the return journey from London to Buda-Pesth, second-class (with first-class on the boat), 56 lbs. of baggage free on the outward journey, good hotel accommodation at Dresden and Vienna, food on the train and in the hotels, omnibus transfer between station and hotel, on arrival and departure from Dresden and Vienna, and on arrival at Buda-Pesth, will be 16 guineas. There will be a courier attached to the party, and the above rates are subject to there being at least 20 people. Those wishing to travel first-class throughout would have to pay an additional sum of £5 10s. All applications to join the party should be made by letter to Mrs. Shelley Gulick, at the offices of the National Union, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

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A Question of Precedent.

There are quite a number of persons of intelligence in this country who still assert that, according to the scheme of the universe, "woman's place is inside the home," and that to alter her position would not only disturb the home, but would shake the stability of the Empire.

The general acceptance of this view of woman's sphere in modern times has been mainly responsible for her denial of entry to much work in the service of humanity; it debarred her for many years in this land from engaging in the practice of medicine; it closed to her the doors of the profession of architecture, and still prevents her from bearing the hall-mark of certain University degrees. This acceptance of the "inside of the home" creed was not, as we know, confined to the men of this country, for among the women of modern times, up till the nineteenth century, there were but a few eager spirits—Lady Mary Montagu, Mary Wollstonecraft, Florenee Nightingale, for example—who broke the bonds of a convention which was strangling woman's endeavour. Such facts would seem to confirm by precedent that woman's position has always been inferior to that of man.

Yet, in deciding a question of precedent, it is necessary to take a bigger sweep of time: to think, not of woman's place in the making of the modern history of England, but of her position in the evolution of the culture of the world, and to determine what share woman has had in the production of the civilisation of which modern comfort and convenience is the outcome.

There are many witnesses, of course, to the story of civilisation in the making—History, Archaeology, Folklore, Language, and the practices of living savage nations—all bear testimony to the steps humanity has taken in its adventurous march through the centuries; and from these sources it is possible to state with a certain definiteness what were the main occupations of men and women in primitive times, and to determine whether civilisation is really a man's product administered by woman, or whether our dusky ancestresses had indeed an active share in primitive culture.

Division of Labour.

In savage times, one finds there was a division of labour the world over as between men and women; indeed, it was often "taboo" for a woman to touch or even to look upon objects used in men's activities. On the other hand, there were occupations which were considered too degrading for a man to touch; nevertheless, a close co-operation existed between the sexes.

Havelock Ellis, in his "Man and Woman," quotes the saying of a native Australian: "A man hunts, spears fish, fights and sits about," as a fair statement of the division of labour among primitive people—"a division altogether independent of race and climate"—and this may be accepted as a rough line of demarcation between the original labour of the sexes. The men were the warriors and hunters, not because the women were considered physically inferior, but because the upbringing of children rendered far-off journeys and perilous exploits unsuitable to the mother. The slayer of the enemy or the quarry necessarily learned from experience what implements were most needed in warfare and in the chase, so the fashioning of such tools naturally fell to man's share of the work, the inventions of many stone implements and snares being due without question to primitive man. Man also invented the music used as a stimulus to warfare, and he fashioned, too, the war-bonnets—the only millinery, be it noted, known to humanity in the early ages.

The cause of civilisation would, however, have advanced but little by these inventions, necessary as they may have been at the time, and if we would account for the advent of agriculture and of architecture, of textiles and of cookery, of art and of education, we must look to the fruit of the savage woman's industry.

Turning even to the question of food supply, man's "sphere," must it not often have happened that the warrior returned empty-handed from a many days' chase, the experience doubtless driving the woman to find a substitute for the meal? Thus, in all likelihood, agriculture began by some woman's discovery, during the hunters' absence, that the seeds of certain grasses would in due season bring forth grain. Whole groups of industries have arisen from the gathering of those original grass seeds, in which thousands of pounds are now involved, and which are directed and developed by men. But in those early days the whole process of agriculture lay in the hands of women who, step by step, evolved new processes by experience, and became agriculturists, reapers, and stowers of grain.

In this latter connection Mr. O. T. Mason states that in inventing the granary the necessity arose to protect the food from vermin, and thus the world has to thank women for the domestication of the cat. "There may be some dispute as to who has the honour of subduing the dog. . . . But woman tamed the wild cat for the protection of her granaries. Already at the dawn of written history in Egypt the cat was sacred to Sekhet, daughter of Ra."

Primitive women, indeed, seem to have ransacked the vegetable kingdom for food, and it is they who discovered Nature's drinks; nay, more, women doubtless prepared the first intoxicating liquors, and, if we may trust the ancient legends of the North, it was woman who discovered man's drink of drinks, ale. It is obvious that woman, the food-collector, would experiment with the preparation of food, and thus, not only is the origin of cookery accounted for, but the invention of utensils for the holding of foodstuffs, and we must look back to the family boiling-pot, formed in the burnt-out log of a tree, as the parent of our multifarious pots and pans. The domestic knife was also the product of a woman's brain, the Eskimo woman's knife (which is called by the distinctive name Ooloo) being even to-day in use as the mincing chopper of the modern kitchen.

Origin of Industries.

The whole of the modern trade in preserved and tinned foods may also be traced back to the patient savage women who fashioned for themselves stone malls, and therein pulverised the flesh and bones of slain animals, and then preserved the marrow and the meat as "pemmican." Then again, the entire leather trade from tanning up to the modern manufacture of boots, trunks and knapsacks, originated from the savage woman's ingenuity in dealing with the skins of slain animals. The method employed in those far-off days, of unhairing a skin by the teeth and hands, and of tanning by the process of chewing a skin thoroughly on the wrong side, makes one wonder at the extraordinary force of the constructive power which made possible such repellent work. Savage women, be it remembered, were also artists in their treatment of skins for clothing, and the way tailoring is still executed amongst the women of some existing savage people is a matter for admiring wonder. One must, however, mention in this connection that tailoring is not exclusively a woman's art among primitive people, for with some tribes of to-day in East Central Africa, so emphatically is sewing considered a man's work that a wife can obtain a divorce if she can show "a neglected rend in her petticoat." Still, in the main, it can be claimed that tent-making, shoe-making, tailoring and upholstering were all trades invented and originally carried out by women.

To turn to another industry that occupies thousands of workers to-day—the textile trade—one finds on investigation that this is also the descendant of woman's industry. Basket-making came first, for it was necessary even in the days of the collection of raw food-stuffs, nuts and fruit, to carry the store to the cave or hut, and thus the simple interlacing of twigs or strips of wood for this purpose is answerable for the invention of basketry. From that art weaving evolved in due course, and was followed by the subsidiary industries of spinning, netting, looping, braidery, sewing and embroidery, and, incidentally, dyeing by means of mineral and vegetable substances. The first beginnings of machinery for textiles appear also to be the work of primitive women who invented the spindle.

An Amazing Story.

Indeed, the further we look into the question of woman's original sphere, the more amazing is the story. Do we seek to find the origin of pottery, it is again the woman; or the first beginnings of applied art, it is the woman's desire to ornament her handiwork. Do we seek the beginning of the carrying trade; there is no doubt that the original unit was a woman's back, and thus, as archaeologists point out, it is no matter for wonder that a ship's carpenter puts a woman's head on the prow of a ship, or that a ship is familiarly termed "she."

If we turn to the profession of medicine, which in modern times was so long closed to women, we find that in the days of savagery the empiric doctor, who effected cures by means of vegetal preparations, was the woman, while the man sorcerer who attempted to frighten the devil in possession of the sick, was found in the course of ages to be on the wrong track.

Primitive woman was also the architect, the builder of the hut or shelter to protect herself and child, and from these rude beginnings inspiring cathedrals ultimately evolved.

Woman, too, tamed the milk-giving animals, not for man's use, but in self-defence, that the long suckling period of her child, lasting some five years, might be reduced. If we add to woman's share in the world's culture the invention and fixing of languages belonging to all the domestic arts, we shall find we have a picture of woman as fire-maker, butcher, cook, baker, brewer, preserver of food, stone-cutter, weaver, tanner, leather-worker, embroiderer, doctor, farmer, cattle-tamer, architect, gardener, poet, musician, and decorative artist. Such was the position of women in primitive times when militarism prevailed.

How then, we may ask, have we reached a period when solemn conclaves of men meet on occasion asking in all sincerity whether woman's place is not "inside the home"?

The obvious answer is, this degradation of the position of woman has come slowly by the cessation of militarism and the gradual usurpation of her place by man. The advent of industrialism was the final blow which broke up the home and snatched woman's work from the domestic workshop into the factory. That which woman painfully and slowly produced by tooth and nail is now whirled into existence in a few instants by the turning of a wheel, and hence an artificial supply is created for an artificial demand, and a false art has arisen by ornament introduced for ornament sake. The user, the woman, is for the most part out of touch with the manufacture of the product she must perforce consume, and so, in this "civilised" and man-made environment, healthy evolution is checked.

Looked at as a question of precedent, this large world of manufacture and art is the world of woman's own inventions and trades from which she has been arbitrarily divorced. Is her sphere, then, really "inside the home" when her own home occupations have been driven outside?

Or does it mean that the home has been enlarged and placed outside the four walls, and that we moderns, forgetting ancient precedent, have so far not interpreted the meaning of our times?
L. Y.

Exhibition of Lithography.

An excellent exhibition of lithography is being held during the month of April at the London Council Central School of Arts and Crafts, Southampton Row, W.C. The exhibits are in the main the product of classes in lithographic drawing carried on in schools and institutions aided by the Council (such as the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, the Camden School of Art, the Central School of Arts and Crafts, the School of Photo-Engraving and Lithography and the South Western Polytechnic), and are fresh evidence of the hopeful work in craftsmanship that the Council is fostering in our midst.

One curious fact struck me in looking at this delightful collection on its opening-day: the preponderance of the students' drawings are from the hands of women, the South Polytechnic exhibit, for example, being, with one unclassified exception, labelled with the respective names of women-students.

Among the examples shown by women there is a drawing by Miss D. Fitzgerald of a woman unrobing, which makes instant appeal by its strength and truth; Mrs. Sargent-Florence shows a fine head of an old man, and a chromo-lithograph in the Early Italian style, which is less pleasing. For delicacy in colour one might, perhaps, select Miss Margaret Clayton's "The Rainbow"; and Miss S. B. Pearce's "Mother and Child" (as one might call this un-named picture) charms by its sheer prettiness and "fancy."

Besides the students' work, this exhibition contains a small collection which traces the development of lithographic art from the days of its inventor, Aloys Senefelden, a copy of whose first book on Drawing on Stone (1818) is shown, together with the French and the English translation (1819).

A certain number of French examples, lent by M. Edmond Sagot, are also on view, including some beautiful exhibits by Eugène Carrière, Puvis de Chavannes, Grasset, Toulouse-Lautrec, etc., work which indicates that we have still much to learn in England in this branch of Art in the way of purity of colour and design, and, perhaps, in gaiety of spirit.

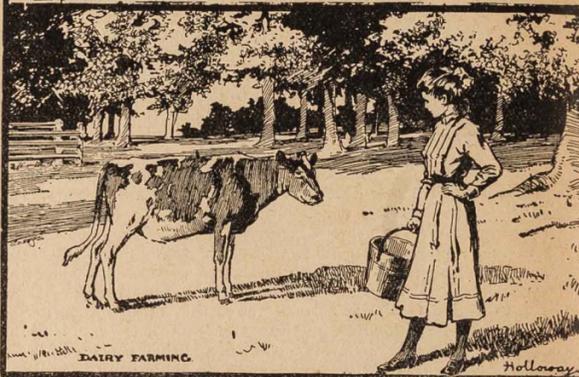
L.

It should be noted that L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes is affiliated with the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, and not with the British National Union, as recorded in our last issue.

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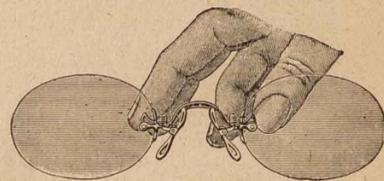
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In Parliament.

SCOTLAND AND FORCIBLE FEEDING.—On Tuesday, March 25th, Mr. Frederick Whyte asked whether any women, "imprisoned in Scotland for offences committed in the course of the Women's Suffrage agitation," had been artificially fed. Mr. McKinnon Wood said: "The answer is in the negative." The Scotch law—by no means for the first time—shows itself more humane and enlightened than the English.

AUTOMATICALLY SUPPLIED CIGARETTES.—Mr. J. M. Henderson asked a question, one clause of which was an enquiry whether any steps had been taken to prevent the sale of cigarettes from automatic machines to youths under sixteen years of age. Mr. Ellis Griffith replied that Section 40 (which forbids the sale of tobacco to children) was not a provision under which a prosecution could be instituted. Mr. J. M. Henderson thereupon asked further whether the Home Secretary could see his way to putting a stop to the sale of cigarettes from automatic machines, "seeing that in any case they are poisonous." Mr. Ellis Griffith, without entering into the thorny question of the perniciousness or innocence of the luxuries in question, cautiously replied that any information supplied will be considered.

JOINT INCOME TAX.—Mr. Wedgwood asked whether the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been called to the distraint levied by the Commissioners of Income Tax upon the goods of Mr. Oswald Powell, of Bedales, Petersfield, "in order to collect income-tax upon a probably non-existent income" of his wife's, because his wife would not declare to him what, if any, her income was; whether other similar cases had occurred within the last two years; and whether he proposed to take any steps to prevent the penalisation in future "at the whim of the local commissioners" of any man whose wife happened to hold strong views on the Suffrage question.

Mr. Lloyd George replied that he had been informed of the case in question; that the District Commissioners of Taxes were independent of Government control, and that the Treasury had no authority to interfere with the exercise of their discretion in discharging the duties entrusted to them by the State.

This answer, though no doubt exact, was inadequate, because it rested upon an assumption that the Government are not responsible for the condition of the law. The members of the Cabinet are aware of the penalty upon marriage imposed by the reckoning of two incomes as one immediately the owners of these incomes marry; they cannot fail to know both that such reckoning is unfair, and that to punish a man by fine, distraint, or imprisonment for not furnishing information which he does not possess is contrary to every civilised principle of law. It is the Government's business to remedy the flagrant defect in the law, not only because injustice is being committed, but because the absurdity of the position brings the law into contempt. In its desire not to recognise a woman as a person the law has set up a fiction that the money which is hers, and which the law itself would punish a thief for stealing from her, is somebody else's, demands thereupon from that somebody an account of facts that he may or may not know, and actually either confiscates part of his property or sends him to prison for not knowing them. This state of things is a scandal, and whatever total of additional pounds may be drawn into the national exchequer is dearly bought.

TEMPORARY DISCHARGE OF PRISONERS.—On the same day (March 25th) Mr. McKenna's Bill for the temporary discharge of prisoners in ill-health, intended to deal with hunger strikers, and another "to make further and better provision for the care of feeble-minded and other mentally defective persons and to improve the Lunacy Acts" were introduced.

DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.—On Thursday, March 27th, a Bill was introduced by Mr. Joseph Pease "to amend the law relating to the education of defective and epileptic children in England and Wales."

MILK BILL.—On March 28th Mr. Burns introduced his Milk and Dairies Bill, which, we earnestly hope may, this season, succeed in passing into law.

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Notes from Headquarters

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MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary)
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Hon. Treasurer:

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MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

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The Officers of the N.U.W.S.S. send the following message of welcome to the newly-formed Organisers' Union:—

One of the most interesting events which took place in connection with the Annual Council of the N.U.W.S.S. was the formation of an Organisers' Union. We wish to offer a very cordial welcome to this new organisation of women workers. We have always realised that those of our Organisers who are sent on outpost duty to distant parts of the country often find themselves rather isolated and solitary. We have always been proud of their esprit de corps, notwithstanding these obstacles, and we hope that the formation of the new Union will give them a greater sense of comradeship with one another, and will bring them into closer touch with us at headquarters.

Every woman's profession ought to have its organised Union, and we are glad to think that an example has been set in this instance by our own workers. We congratulate those to whose initiative the scheme is due.

Reception to Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, arrives in England on April 29th, and as she has to continue her journey to Buda-Pesth as soon as possible to prepare for the coming International Congress, she can only spare time for a short visit.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies are therefore choosing the only available date, Wednesday, May 7th, to give Mrs. Catt a reception. They hope to be able to offer her a very hearty welcome after her journey round the world, and also they feel sure that everybody will be anxious to hear her report of the far-distant countries she has been visiting. They, therefore, urge all their members and friends to take tickets for this reception, which is to be held at Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly, W. Tickets (5s.) to be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Treasurer's Notes.

We often observe that even generous donors view with doubt or even suspicion appeals for a General Fund or for purposes of organisation. They seem to think that the return is likely to be less on expenditure of so dull and unexciting a kind than on money given for some special object. They think, too, that vast sums may have to be poured out before any return is seen at all. To these I would recommend a careful perusal of the study in financial history which appears this week (page 880). The article speaks for itself, but will, perhaps, come as a surprise to many old supporters.

It may be true that the sums which came into the hands of the Headquarter's Executive from 1903 onwards would not have produced so startling an effect had they come sooner; no doubt the time was ripe; the new and widespread vitality was not so much caused as expressed by the money given, yet to those who had the spending of each year's income, and who watched the coming of the harvest, it is overwhelmingly certain that the harvest would never have been reaped, would never have been there to reap, without the funds as well as the gallant and growing band of workers. In the light of our financial history, I venture once more to appeal for general purposes and for organisation. We have a huge and powerful machine to keep going, built gradually by the devotion and zeal of innumerable friends, some no longer in this world; we are bound to lay out about £8,000 this year at Headquarters merely to keep our engines running and our staff of organisers at full strength, and more, if we are to grow as we ought. Surely with past successes to cheer us, we shall not find it hard to give this sum even without crippling our Election work.

F. M. STERLING.

Treasurer (pro tem.).

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Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.
Anonymous 25 0 0

Correction. £5,217 0 1
The entry Miss A. E. James £1 is., which was sent to us for inclusion last issue among the contributions to the Election Fighting Fund, should read Miss A. E. Tanner £1 is.

Correspondence.

FORCIBLE FEEDING.

Under the heading "In Parliament" in your issue of March 14th, you made a definite statement that "a young woman had been brought to death's door by the forcing of food into her lungs."

In your issue of March 21st, without making any reference to your previous assertion, you merely express surprise that the Home Secretary should have asserted that food was not forced into her lungs.

As a life-long supporter and advocate of Woman Suffrage, I would gladly see its representatives in the Press applying the same justice to its opponents as it rightly demands from them. We ought, in fact, to show a higher standard than those who oppose us, and be scrupulously fair especially to our bitterest enemies. I am sure this will advance our cause far more than creating resentment against their will.

D. B. McLAREN, N.U.W.S.S.

[We think that Mr. McLaren has some ground for his complaint; but not exactly the ground that he seems to take. The case of Miss Lenton stands thus: She was found to be suffering from pleurisy, which was diagnosed shortly after she had been forcibly fed, and was released when in imminent danger of her life. It was declared by her friends, including medical practitioners, that food had been forced into her lungs, and the symptoms corresponded with that view. We had hitherto found that the statements as to prison experiences made officially by "militants" were trustworthy, and we accepted this history of the case. We were, therefore, surprised at Mr. McKenna's statement, and thought the contradiction ought to be noted, although in the absence of further elucidation, it did not appear conclusive. But having noted it, it would have been right to give, in adequate detail, the explanation subsequently made on March 18th, by Mr. McKenna in the House. We do so in this issue (p. 881).—Ed. C.C.]

THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTERS.

I wish to remonstrate with you as to the extraordinary way in which the case for Women's Suffrage is "given away" in THE COMMON CAUSE of March 14th. I refer to the paragraph on the front page headed "The Percentage of Women Voters." In this it is stated that at present many of the women qualified to vote at the Municipal elections are not "either fit or able to take part in the government of the great city."

If this is the case, how can you blame the Liberal Party because it refuses to bring in immediately a Bill to give these women the Parliamentary vote? Surely, the statement that they are unfit for the vote should be repudiated without loss of time. (Miss) WINIFRED M. CROMPTON.

[A reference to this letter appears in "Notes and Comments" of this issue].

We have received a letter from Miss Maude Royden in answer to Mrs. Haverfield and Miss Lindsay, which pressure of space compels us to withhold until next issue.—Ed. C.C.

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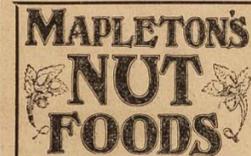
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† District Secretary: 38, Palace Mansions, Addison Bridge, W.

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I. Melton Mowbray.—Miss A. M. DOWSON, Sulney Fields, Upper Broughton, Melton Mowbray.
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G. Rochdale.—Miss G. STARKIE, 12, Roach Place, Rochdale.
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E. Saltburn.—Miss LEAKEY, 9, Leven Street, Saltburn-by-the-Sea.
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- P. Seaford.—Miss OTTLEY, The Chalet, Seaford, Sussex, and Miss CASSON, Seaford.
H. Seaford.—Mrs. BELL, "Lyndhurst," Norma Road, Waterloo.
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D. Silloth.—Miss WILSON, 4, Hilton Terrace, Silloth, Cumberland.
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C. South Shields.—Miss V. SMITH, Vicars Court, Southwell Shields.
I. Southwell.—Miss W. SMITH, Vicars Court, Southwell, Notts.
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C. Spennymoor.—Miss NICHOLL, Ruby House, Durham Road, Spennymoor.
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M. Stroud.—Mrs. MILLS, Yarrow, Lower Street, Stroud, Glos.
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H. Wallasey and Wirral.—Miss MCPHERSON, 16, Newland Drive, Liscard.
D. Walsall.—Pro tem. Miss LOWRY, 74, Lysways Street, Walsall.
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E. Whitby.—Miss THORNTON, Sleights, Yorks.
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 W. Winccombe.—Mrs. TANNER, Fordlyne, Winccombe, Somerset.
 G. Winsford.—Miss MARY WALSH, The Hollies, Winsford, Cheshire.
 N. Woburn Sands.—Miss E. WOODS, Firdale, Woburn Sands, R.S.O.
 P. Woking.—Miss DAVIES COLLEY, Briarwood, Woking, N. Wokingham.—Miss VIOLET EUSTACE, Montague House, Wokingham, Berks.
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 J. Worcester.—Miss M. M. WILLIAMS, 19, Droitch Road, Worcester.
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 P. Worthing.—Miss HELEN WRIGHT, 31, Warwick Street, Worthing, and Miss BOWEN.
 H. Wrexham.—Miss PRICE, 76, Beechley Road, Wrexham.
 K. Yarmouth.—Miss TRASSER, Martlesham, Southtown, Gt. Yarmouth.
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 B. Berwickshire.—Mrs. HOPE, Sunwick, Berwick-on-Tweed.
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 B. Cupar.—Miss DAVIDSON, Bonvil, Cupar, Fife.
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 B. Kirkcaldy.—Mrs. HONEYMAN, Sauchendene, Kirkcaldy.
 B. Largs.—Miss MARGARET PATON, Mansfield, Largs, Ayrshire.
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 B. Montrose.—Miss HOSSACK, 89, Bridge Street, Montrose.
 A. Nairn.—Miss LAING, Holmwood, Nairn, N.B.
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 B. Orcaidian.—Mrs. CURSTNER, Daisybank, Kirkwall, Orkney.
 B. Paisley.—Miss RISK, 36, Whitehugh Drive, Paisley.
 B. Peebles.—Mrs. W. E. THORNBURN, Hay Lodge, Peebles. Pro tem. G. H. BALLANTYNE, Esq., Argyll Lodge, Peebles.
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 B. Port Glasgow.—
 B. St. Andrews.—Mrs. SCOTT, 3, Queen's Terrace, St. Andrews.
 B. Selkirk.—Miss MARY SORRIE, M.A., care of Miss GRAY, Tower Street, Selkirk.
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 B. Sutherland.—Miss M. PLOWMAN, Helmsdale, Sutherlandshire.
 B. Tayside.—Miss MAXWELL, Kenbank, Wornit-on-Tay.
 B. Wick.—Miss ELIZABETH GRANT, 2, Moray Street, Wick.

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 I. Aberystwyth.—Miss MILES THOMAS, Somerville, South Terrace, Aberystwyth.
 H. Bangor.—Mrs. C. PRICE WHITE, Rockleigh, Bangor.
 Branch: Llanfairfechan.
 I. Bargoed and District.—Mrs. IORWETH CLARK, Caerdydd, Hillside Park, Bargoed.

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 L. Brecon and District.—Miss ELIZABETH JANE EDWARDS, 2, Camden Villas, Brecon.
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 H. Carnarvon.—Mrs. D. O. EVANS, Brynafon, Carnarvon, and Miss EYRE DAVIES, Cartrfrec, Segontium Road, South Carnarvon. Branch: Pen-y-froes.
 H. Colwyn Bay.—Miss M. SPENCER, Farlands, Penrhyn Bay, near Llandudno.
 H. Crickieth.—Mrs. WALTER JONES, Eneu, Crickieth.
 H. Dolgelly.—Mrs. JOHN JONES, Wenallt, Springfield Street, Dolgelly, and Miss GERTRUDE LEWIS, Dr. Williams' School, Dolgelly.
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 L. Kidwelly and Ferryside.—Miss E. M. MEREDITH, "Brynhyfryd," Kidwelly, S. Wales.
 L. Lampeter.—Miss MINNIE C. DAVIES, Velindre House, Lampeter.
 H. Llandudno.—Miss WRIGHT, Preswilya, Abbey Road, Llandudno.
 L. Llanelly.—Miss SMITH, 9, Mina Street, Llanelly.
 H. Llan-gollen.—Miss B. STEWART, Hafody-Coed, Llan-gollen.
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 L. Merthyr and District.—Mrs. M. J. WILLIAMS, 1, Lewis Terrace, Heolgergig, Merthyr Tydfil.
 H. Penmaenmawr.—Miss A. M. HARKER, Fernbrook Road, Penmaenmawr.
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 H. Rhyl.—Mrs. WILLIAMS, The Studio, High Street, Rhyl.
 L. Swansea.—Miss AARON THOMAS, Dolgoy, West Cross, Glam.
 L. Upper Rhonda.—Mrs. M. JAMESON WILLIAMS, 38, Stuart Street, Treorchy, Wales.

News from the Societies and Federations.

North Eastern.

The activities of the North Eastern Federation for the past month have, of course, been centred in Houghton-le-Spring. All the Societies in the area have endeavoured to give help in some form or other. Sunderland has assisted most generously in the way of workers, subscriptions and hospitality.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—The Committee of the Bishop Auckland Society having provided for hospitality at the Clairmont Hotel, Miss Bury went there on February 24th to start a Society in Spenny-moor. The first week's work did not bring in many members, as Suffrage was quite a new thing in Spenny-moor, and no meetings had been held. Two members of the National Union were discovered in Mrs. Alan Hutchinson, President of the Women's Unionist Association, and in Miss Miller, the Domestic Science teacher at one of the schools, who had arranged and held a most successful debate among the teachers and elder scholars. A meeting was held in the Templars' Hall, March 7th, the tea being given by Mrs. Hutchinson and the Chair taken by Mrs. A. Charlton, President of the W.L.A. Mr. T. W. Hill, the successful candidate of the Trades and Labour Council in the recent County Council election, attended and gave his support. About 60 people were present, Miss Bury addressed the meeting, and 24 new members joined, bringing the number up to 42. A Committee was appointed and the Society hopes to arrange for a Public Meeting in the near future.

DURHAM.—A small sale of work was held on Wednesday, March 3rd, at Hatfield Hall, by the mission of Mrs. Jevons. Miss Margaret Mein (Newcastle) gave an address.

GATESHEAD.—A very active month's work is reported by the Society at Gateshead. On February 11th a meeting was held in the Suffrage Office, 115, High West Street, when Mrs. Swanwick was the principal speaker. Mrs. Dunn (Low Fell) presided over an audience which filled the room to overflowing. Tea was provided and a good collection taken. Mrs. Wilkinson's party of children gave a kinderspiel at the office in High West Street on February 28th. This was arranged by Mrs. Hutchinson and the thanks of the Society are due to her for getting it up. On March 5th and 6th the office was transformed into a Japanese tea garden, and a most delightful gathering took place. Several of the members of the Gateshead Society, as well as of other neighbouring Societies, were most charmingly dressed in Japanese garb, and they sang, recited, and attended to the refreshment department. Cakes and sweets of every description were on sale, and a cake guessing competition was an additional attraction. The Society are very much indebted to Mrs. Hutchinson, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Tomlinson (Monkseaton), Mrs. Mathew, the Misses Hewitt and Miss Cameron for the success of the entertainment. On March 17th the Gateshead Society assisted at Mr. Snowden's meeting, which was held by the N.U.W.S.S., conjointly with the Independent Labour Party. The Chair was taken by Dr. Ethel Williams, and had it not been for the very strong line taken by her, the meeting might have been ruined by militant disturbances. Owing to the fact that the women did not allow the meeting to proceed until all the militants had left the Hall, Mr. Snowden was finally given an excellent hearing. It is to be regretted that the local papers (in particular the *Newcastle Journal*) reported at length the disturbing element of the meeting, but not on the matter of Mr. Snowden's speech. The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on March 16th, Mrs. Dunn, in the absence of Dr. Campbell, taking the Chair. A very satisfactory report was read showing greatly increased activities during 1912. There was also an increase in members and subscriptions. The financial statement was satisfactory, showing a very small balance on the right side. The delegates to the recent Council afterwards delighted the audience by relating their experiences and pleasures there.

HARTLEPOOL reports Miss Bury's second visit. Having already made a beginning in Hartlepool in December, Miss Bury re-visited it in February for the purpose of starting a Society which was to be independent of that already formed in West Hartlepool. Mrs. Swallow kindly gave hospitality, and after a week's visiting, a Committee and officers were appointed under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Gibbs, the Mayoress, the membership of the Society being over 50.

HEXHAM.—Anti-suffrage activity has been contained within Hexham during the last month. The question of holding a debate with the Anti-Suffragists was mooted, but the conditions offered were not those of ordinary debate, and so the idea was dropped. Members of the Hexham Society (N.U.), however, attended the meetings and questioned the speakers.

MIDDLETON-IN-TRASDALE.—After the last meeting held here in January, twelve members had joined the National Union, and it was suggested that a Society should be formed. Miss Bury went over on March 3rd, and with the help of Mrs. Stobart visited the members and made arrangements for a meeting to be held in the Church Schools. Mr. Beadle took the Chair, and Miss Bury spoke, and though there was not a large attendance, owing to the stormy weather, seven new members joined, a Committee was formed and the Society affiliated to the National Union.

NEWCASTLE.—This Society reports a debate held in the office, 7, Ridley Place on March 8th, when Mrs. Ornsby introduced the discussion that a woman should not devote all her political energies to Suffrage work. Miss Silbertson seconded her and they were opposed by Miss Cowley and Miss Weddell. A discussion followed and the audience voted very convincingly against Mrs. Ornsby's motion. A meeting organised by Mrs. Laws and Mrs. Ornsby was held at the Minories on March 11th. The Rev. Cyril Herd occupied the Chair, and Miss Margaret Robertson gave a most rousing address. There was a very good audience. The Newcastle Society were most grateful to her for coming from the midst of her activities in Houghton-le-Spring. Tea was provided and a collection of £2 10s. was taken.

SHILDON.—A very successful and interesting fancy fair was held on March 4th. The various stalls did good business and a variety entertainment proved very attractive. Miss Evans and party from Bishop Auckland presented an amusing dialogue "The Anti-Arms." Miss Margaret Robertson gave a rousing address during the course of the evening and sixteen new members joined and six Friends of Woman's Suffrage.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Miss Barbour, Secretary of the South Shields Society, gave hospitality for a week, during which Miss Bury devoted herself to canvassing, as some meetings, which had been hoped for, had fallen through. Twelve members belonging to the National Women's Liberal Association joined the Society and two promised to help on the Committee. A drawing-room meeting was promised for April.

SUNDERLAND.—On March 7th some of the younger and more enterprising members of the Sunderland Society gave an entertainment in aid of our funds in the Alexandra Hall. The first part of the performance was music, vocal and instrumental, and a recitation, was music, vocal and instrumental, and a recitation, was the second part was a well-acted rendering of Bernard Shaw's "Press Cuttings." Generous assistance was given by men friends all through the evening, for which our gratitude is due. Despite counter attractions in the town the attendance was excellent. Financially, as well as artistically, the performance was a success, and will benefit the Society to the extent of some £2. On Friday evening, March 4th, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, threw open her house to members and other friends. Miss Margaret Mein addressed the guests in an able speech. Mr. Hooper occupied the Chair, and gave a short impromptu address and Mrs. Walford Common also spoke. After supper Mr. Percy Greenwood and Miss Thea Johnson rendered two songs "The School for Scandal," and "The 'At Home'" was a great success. An able letter on the Suffrage question from the pen of Mrs. Eyres appeared in *The Echo* on Friday, February 27th. A letter emanating from the Anti-Suffrage Shop appeared on March 18th, and a reply from Mrs. Walford Common on March 18th.

Mr. McGregor on Social Progress.

On March 18th Mr. Chas. McGregor gave an interesting address in the Municipal Buildings, Kirkwall, on "The Status of Women and Social Progress." Mr. W. R. Macintosh was in the chair, and there was a fair attendance. In opening the proceedings the Chairman remarked that he thought it was somewhat of a blot on our country's boasted spirit of fairplay that they should be under the necessity of meeting there that night for the purpose of promoting such a reform as Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Chas. McGregor, in his address, touched on a good many points connected with the economic position of women, pointed out the unfairness to women of some of our laws, and expressed the opinion that the influence of enfranchised women would speedily elevate the social conditions of our country. In the discussion that followed, a suggestion was made that similar suffrage meetings might be held throughout the county. The suggestion was enthusiastically taken up, and it was remitted to the executive to make the necessary arrangements.

Meeting at Castle Douglas.

A meeting of members and friends of the Castle Douglas Society was held in the ante-room of the Town Hall, Mr. H. W. B. Crawford, of Chapmanton, presiding over a good attendance. The occasion of the meeting was to hear an address by Miss Lees, who, in a concise and comprehensive paper, dealt in an able manner with the history of the women's suffrage movement from the earliest days. At the close questions were invited, but none were asked, and a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Miss Lees, on the motion of Miss Montgomery. Several new members were afterwards enrolled.

Meetings Addressed by Members of the National Union.

APRIL 4.
 Glaston (Rutland)—Mrs. Rackham 3.0
 Uppingham—Oddfellows' Hall—Mrs. Rackham 8.0
 APRIL 6.
 Birkenhead—L.L.P. Branch—Miss Wyse 7.0
 APRIL 7.
 Birmingham—Severn Street Women's Adult School—Mrs. Ring 3.0
 " Handsworth Women's Co-Operative Guild—Mrs. King 8.0
 APRIL 10.
 Bristol—Co-Operative Women—Sandy Park Road—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 3.0

Meetings Arranged by the National Union.

APRIL 4.
 Southport—Rowntree's Café, Lord Street—"At Home." Speakers, The President and Mrs. Thow 3-5
 Aokworth—The Council School, Chair, Mr. W. A. Bennett, Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Renton 7.30
 Shanklin—The Institute, Chair, Mr. John Marsh, Speaker, Mr. Baillie Weaver 8.30
 Mellor—Scouts' Hall, Public meeting—Mrs. Annot Robinson, Mr. Fenner Brockway 8.0
 Brackenhill—Council School—Public meeting, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Renton, Chair, Mr. W. A. Bennett 7.30
 Fiskerton—Drawing-Room meeting, Hostess, Mrs. Gregory, Speaker, Miss Norma Smith 3.0
 APRIL 5.
 Farnsfield—Church Schoolroom, Chair, The Rev. R. A. McKee, Speaker, Miss Norma Smith 7.30
 APRIL 7.
 Bristol—Members' Meeting—99, White Ladies Road, Mrs. H. Usher, Miss J. M. Baretti 7.30
 Leeds—9, Park Lane—Annual meeting of West Riding Federation, Reception to Delegates, Hostess, Miss I. O. Ford 3-6
 Croydon—W.S.S. office—Miss D. Pelton, "Women's Work" 8.30
 Devizes—Town Hall—Lantern Lecture—"Women's Work in the Empire" 8.0
 Dovercourt—Co-operative Hall—Social evening, Annual Report, election of Committee 7.30
 APRIL 9.
 Bristol—Drawing-Room meeting—Mrs. Rashleigh—St. Agnes' Vicarage, Mrs. Randall 3.0
 Leeds—9, Park Lane—"At Home" 3.30
 Bridgewater—Oddfellows' Hall—Chair, Mrs. Roger Clark—Dramatic performance, "An Englishwoman's Home," "A Talk with Mrs. Olchick" 8.0
 APRIL 10.
 Birmingham—Musical Recital—43, Frederick Road Edgbaston—Miss Kirby, Miss Elma Baker—Tickets, 2s. 3.30
 APRIL 11.
 Birmingham—Musical Recital—Miss Kirby, Miss Elma Baker, 43, Frederick Road, Edgbaston. Tickets, 2s. 3.30
 Stoke-on-Trent—Church Institute—Social meeting of members 7.30
 Bristol—Drawing-Room meeting—Mrs. Borthwick's, 1, Walsingham Road, St. Andrews—Mrs. Usher, Miss Chato 7.30

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SCOTLAND.
 APRIL 4.
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place, "At Home." Speaker, Mrs. Melville, "Queens of Scotland." Chair, Miss K. M. Loudon 4.30
 APRIL 5.
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place, "At Home." Speaker, Miss Hilda Cotterill 4.30

LONDON.

APRIL 4.
 Islington—Miss J. Bisset Smith's, 57, Hillmorton Road, N.—Study Circle 8.0
 Poplar—Open-air meeting at the bottom of the West India Docks Road. Speaker, Miss Binder 12.30
 APRIL 7.
 Ealing—Buo's Café—Public Meeting, Chair, The Rev. Templeton King, Speakers, Miss Philippa Farewell and Miss Geraldine Cooke 8.15
 Poplar—Open-air meeting at the Blackwall Tunnel Dock Gates—East India Dock Road. Speaker, Miss Binder 1.30
 APRIL 8.
 Surbiton—Assembly Rooms—Public meeting, Chair, Mr. R. N. Goodman, M.D. Speaker, Miss Royden, "The Aspect of the Suffrage Movement" 8.30
 Walworth—Debate at St. Stephen's New Parish Hall, Villa Street, Speakers, Miss Fielden, Miss Mabel Smith 12.30-1.30
 Poplar—Open-air meetings at the corner of West Ferry Road and General Road, Millwall. Speaker, Miss Binder 12.30-1.30
 Hackney—144, Clapton Common N.—Suffrage Play Oake and Candy Sale 3-6, 7.30-10
 APRIL 9.
 Poplar—Public meeting in Town Hall, Chair, The Mayor of Poplar, Speakers, Miss Royden, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G.; Chair, Mr. R. H. Green, J.P.; Chair, Miss A. Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., The Rev. E. G. Southam, Music. Reserved seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s. 8.30
 Bedford Park—Mrs. Philip, "At Home"—19, Fairfax Road, Bedford Park 3.30
 APRIL 10.
 Chelsea—Drawing-Room meeting at 15, Cheyne Walk, Hostess, Lady Courtney, Speaker, Miss Royden 3.0
 APRIL 10.
 Battersea—Lower Town Hall—Public Meeting—Chair, Mr. W. Willis, Speakers, Miss Royden and the Rev. Lewellyn Smith 8.0
 APRIL 11.
 Islington—Miss J. Bisset Smith's, 57, Hillmorton Road, N.—Study Circle 8.0
 APRIL 12.
 North Lambeth—Drawing-Room meeting at 61-63, Kennington Road, Hostess, Mrs. Wilkie Jones, Speaker, Mrs. Savory 3.0

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Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column, and a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words will be made. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION. The Committee will meet at 33, Molesworth Street, on Thursday, April 10th, at 11 a.m., and a Public Meeting will be held on April 11th, at 8 p.m., at the same address. Mr. Haslam will read a paper on "A Living Wage." Discussion after.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. LECTURE, Caxton Hall, Monday, April 7th, at 8 p.m. Lecturer: Mrs. Despard. Subject: "Browning's 'Saul.'" Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from the Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. Public Meeting at Caxton Hall, Wednesday, April 9th, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. J. Guckenheim on "Woman and the Dismal Sciences." Miss C. Nina Boyle. Chair, Mrs. Nevinson.

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